1992, published by ILO, India has probably the largest number of working children. However, authentic data on Child Labour are generated from the decennial census. As per 1991 census the number of working children in India is 11.28 million as against 13.6 million according to 1981 census.

(b) to (d) According to the news paper report a workshop on "Primary Education and Child Labour was organised by SACCS (South-Asian Coalition of Child Servitude) in New Delhi on 1st Nov., 97, wherein emphasis was laid on the need for achieving universal primary education. Government have taken a series of steps for the elimination of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in parts A and B of the scheduled to the Act. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interests of working children. Apart from legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. As the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools. Besides opening of child labour projects, funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 516 distrsicts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour in 133 districts. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government for universalisation of elementary eduction and for providing free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14 years.

News Norms for Selection to top Administrative Posts

1027. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed new norms for selection to the top administrative posts such as the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND THE PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALA- SUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Ceiling of GPF Contributions

1028. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ceiling on GPF contributions for Central Government employees; and

(b) whether Government propose to relax the ceiling to enable Government employees to deposit the arrears due to them on account of 5th Pay Commission Report enblock to GPF account in the interest of economic stability of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND THE PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The ceiling in GPF contributions for Central Govt. servants has been prescribed in GPF (CS) Rules, 1960 which provides that the amount of subscription may be any sum not less than 6% of the emoluments and not more than the total emoluments of an employee.

(b) The proposal to allow voluntary deposit of arrears due to Government servants on account of acceptance of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission into GPF is under consideration.

Complaints against Ministers for not replying to MPs

1029. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Prime Minister from Members of Parliament against the Ministers for not replying to the letters of the MPs;

(b) what action the Prime Minister's office has taken on such serious complaints;

(c) what is the remedy for a Member if a Minister deliberately avoids answering the letters of MPs; and

(d) whether the action of the Minister in not replying to the letters of the MPs would be taken more seriously; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) In the absence of a specific time-frame indicated in the question, information has been provided for the last month only.

The Prime Minister's Office received two letters from MPs regarding lack of response from the Ministers to the letters from the MPs during the last month.

(b) The PMO has forwarded both these letters to the concerned ministries for immediate action.

(c) and (d) The basic guidelines for dealing with letters received from Members of Parliament are contained in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. These include instructions to the effect that communications received from Members of Parliament should be attended to promptly. Each communication is to replied to within 15 days; where a delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or where information is to be collected from offices other than the Ministry to which letter pertains, an interim reply should be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given. Where a communication is addressed to a Minister, it should, as far as practicable, be replied by the concerned Minister. Disposal of references from the M.Ps. should be personally monitored by the senior officers periodically.

Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the conduct rules. Cabinet Secretary, on the order of the Prime Minister, has reiterated to all the Council of Ministers the need to respond to the elected representatives of the people with courtesy and to examine their requests and suggestions expeditiously.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions had also requested the Council of Ministers of the Govt. of India to ensure that replies to communications received from MPs were duly acknowledged and attended to promptly.

आई॰ए॰एस॰ तथा आई॰पी॰एस॰ अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध मामलों का शीघ्र निपटान

1030. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आई॰ए॰एस॰ तथा आई॰पी॰एस॰ अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध चलने वाले मामलों को अनेक प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरना पड़ता है, जिसके कारण व्यवस्था को भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों का बोझ सहना पड़ता है और ऐसे मामलों के निपटान में लगने वाले लम्बे समय के कारण प्रमाण के अभाव तथा राजनैतिक दबाव के कारण अनेक अधिकारियों को छोड़ दिया जाता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ऐसी प्रक्रिया अपनाने का विचार रखती है, जिसके अंतर्गत ऐसे अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध चलने वाले मामलों का जनहित में एक माह की अवधि के भीतर निपटान कर दिया जाए?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस॰आर॰ बालासुब्रह्मण्यन): (क) और